



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,967	08/01/2005	Peter C. Brazier	9223A	3137
25280	7590	01/07/2008		
Legal Department (M-495) P.O. Box 1926 Spartanburg, SC 29304			EXAMINER	
			JUSKA, CHERYL ANN	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/07/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/516,967	Applicant(s) BRAZIER ET AL.
	Examiner Cheryl Juska	Art Unit 1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 22-27 and 31-46 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 22-27 and 31-46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/136/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed October 25, 2007, has been entered. Claims 1-21 and 28-30 have been cancelled as requested. Thus, the pending claims are 22-27 and 31-46.
2. Said amendment renders moot the 112, 2nd rejection of claims 28-30 as set forth in sections 1-3 of the last Office Action (Non-Final Rejection mailed 06/25/07).

Double Patenting

3. Claims 22-27 and 31-46 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 29-56 of copending Application No. 10/516,861 for the reasons set forth in sections 4 and 5 of the last Office Action.
4. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
6. Claims 22-27 and 31-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,968,631 issued to Kerr in view of US 6,896,964 issued to Kvesic as set forth in section 7 of the last Office Action.

Applicant has not amended the claims in an attempt to overcome the prior art rejection. Instead, applicant traverses said rejection on the grounds that the void-containing crumb-rubber backing taught by Kvesic could not be produced by the extrusion method disclosed by Kerr (Amendment, page 8, 2nd paragraph). This argument is unpersuasive since one skilled in the art would understand that substituting the rubber backing of Kvesic for the backing of Kerr would include a substitution of the backing processing method. Kvesic clearly teaches the rubber backing is suitable for the intended use of Kerr (i.e., floor mats). As such, one would have a reasonable expectation of success in applying the Kvesic backing and method of making said backing to the Kerr invention. Therefore, applicant's argument is found unpersuasive and the above rejection stands.

7. Claims 45 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,968,631 issued to Kerr in view of US 6,896,964 issued to Kvesic as applied to claim 22 above and in further view of WO 96/38298 issued to Burke as set forth in section 9 of the last Office Action.

Applicant traverses said rejection by asserting that Burke teaches a floor mat having a rubber backing, but fails to teach the use of a crumb rubber backing layer (Amendment, page 9, 1st paragraph). Applicant concludes there would not be a reasonable expectation of success in combining Burke's edging strips with the teachings of Kerr and Kvesic (Amendment, page 9, 1st paragraph). In response, Burke need not teach a crumb rubber backing since this feature is taught by the other references. Additionally, Burke teaches the edging strips are not formed of the rubber backing material itself but rather are joined to the rubber backing (abstract). As such, one would still have an expectation of success in combining the teachings of the three references

since the edging strips are not required be of the same material as the rubber backing. Therefore, said rejection is also maintained.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

9. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Juska whose telephone number is 571-272-1477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached at 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Juska/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1794

cj
January 8, 2008